

NOTES ON THE GENUS *PHELISTER*, MARS.¹

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While working on a revision of the Genus *Phelister*, of the United States, I noted a few points which it seems well to clear up at this time. Say, in 1825 described *Phelister subrotundus*, and also described a variety of *subrotundus* which he called var. A. This variety is characterized by having the fifth dorsal stria abbreviated in front. In the sixty-two specimens of *subrotundus*, which I have examined, I found seven of this variety, and consider that it merits a name.

Phelister subrotundus Say var. *sayi*, var. nov.

Oval, shining, black. Antennæ, legs, and elytra at each side and at tip, reddish brown. Front concave, punctured, frontal stria interrupted, but extending over the eyes. Thorax finely punctulate, more coarsely at the sides; marginal stria entire, fine; submarginal stria fine, distinct, abbreviated at base. Elytra with five entire striae, the fifth extending just past the middle, and represented at the base by a single deep puncture; the sutural extending usually as far as the fifth. Propygidium sparsely punctured, pygidium sparsely and more minutely punctured. Anterior tibiae multidenticulate.

The type of this variety is in my collection; paratypes in my collection and in that of Mr. C. A. Frost. I have seen also a second well marked variety which is, however, much more rare. In this variety the fourth dorsal stria is hooked towards the scutellum.

Phelister subrotundus Say var. *frosti*, var. nov.

Oval, shining, black. Antennæ, legs, and elytra at each side and tip, reddish brown. Front concave, punctured, frontal stria interrupted, but extending over the eyes. Thorax finely punctulate, more coarsely at the sides; marginal stria entire, fine; submarginal stria distinct, fine, abbreviated at base. Elytra with five entire striae, the fifth distinctly hooked at base, the hook extending half way to the scutellum; sutural extending to middle or just in front of the middle. Propygidium sparsely punctured, pygidium sparsely and minutely punctured. Anterior tibiae multidenticulate.

Described from three specimens; the type is in my collection; paratypes in the collection of Mr. C. A. Frost and the American Museum of Natural History.

¹Contributions from the Entomological Laboratory of the Bussey Institution,* Harvard University, No. 106.

Both these varieties seem to coincide in range with *Phelister subrotundus*.

Two more species, *vernus* Say. and *saunieri* Mars. require attention. These two are very close but differ in essential points. In *vernus* the thorax is very sparsely and unevenly punctate, as is the pygidium, the form of the insect is distinctly elongate, and all of the twenty-four specimens which I have examined have a distinctly reddish tinge, thus producing a rusty appearance, although the general color is black. *Saunieri* is proportionately broader, and has the thorax evenly and rather densely punctate, the pygidium is also evenly punctate but not very densely, the color is a clear, shining black without a trace of reddish.

I believe that the latter is extensively confused with *vernus* in collections as all the eight specimens that I have seen have been sent to me under that name.